

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A device for ligament reconstruction comprising:
 - a tip portion having two parallel through-holes formed therein in juxtaposition;
 - a rear-end portion having two through-holes formed therein in juxtaposition coaxially with [[the]] said two through-holes of [[the]] said tip portion; and a connection portion connector which connects connecting the said rear-end portion and [[the]] said tip portion and having, wherein said connector has a single connection hole connecting one of [[the]] said through-holes of [[the]] said tip portion coaxially to one of [[the]] said through-holes of [[the]] said rear-end portion, the connection portion being wherein said connector is thinner and longer than [[the]] said tip portion and [[the]] said rear-end portion, and wherein [[the]] said tip portion has a generally elliptical or rectangular cross section elongated in a direction in which [[the]] said through-holes thereof are juxtaposed, so that the tip portion is driven into an articular bone to form a flat socket in the bone by hitting the rear-end portion.

2. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The ligament reconstruction device as set forth in claim 1, wherein the generally elliptical or rectangular cross section has a major axis/minor axis ratio of 2 to 5.
3. (Previously Amended) [[A]] The ligament reconstruction device as set forth in claim 1, wherein the elliptical cross section is of a generally oval shape or a racetrack-like elliptical shape.
4. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The ligament reconstruction device as set forth in claim 3, wherein the racetrack-like elliptical shape is defined by a pair of parallel straight lines spaced a distance of 3mm to 6mm from each other and each having a length of 4mm to 8mm and a pair of semicircles connecting opposite ends of the straight lines.
5. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The ligament reconstruction device as set forth in claim 1, wherein the rectangular cross section has a minor edge length of 3mm to 6mm and a major edge length of 7mm to 14mm.
6. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The ligament reconstruction device as set forth in claim 1, wherein the tip portion has a cross sectional area of 21mm² to 84mm².
7. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The ligament reconstruction device as set forth in claim 1, wherein the tip portion has a length of 5mm to 10mm.

8. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The ligament reconstruction device as set forth in any claim 1, wherein the connection portion connector has a generally round or oval cross section.

9. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The ligament reconstruction device as set forth in claim 1, wherein the ligament reconstruction ~~is—reconstruction—of~~ device is configured to reconstruct an anterior cruciate ligament graft.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for ligament reconstruction utilizing a ligament reconstruction device as recited in claim 1, the method comprising the steps of:

drilling a guide pin into an articular bone;

fitting the guide pin in two of the through-holes and the connection hole of the ligament reconstruction device aligned with each other, and drilling another guide pin into the articular bone through the other two through-holes of the ligament reconstruction device;

removing portions of the bone around the previously-inserted two guide pins by over-drilling; and

driving the tip portion of the ligament reconstruction device into the articular bone toward a lateral cortex of the articular bone by hitting the rear-end portion of the ligament reconstruction device with the two guide pins respectively fitted in the two through-holes and the connection hole of the ligament reconstruction device aligned with each other and in the other two through-holes

of the ligament reconstruction device to form a flat socket into which one end portion of a ligament graft is to be inserted.

11. (Currently Amended) **[[A]]** The ligament reconstruction method as set forth in claim 10, wherein the flat socket has a depth of 10mm to 23mm.

12. (Currently Amended) **[[A]]** The ligament reconstruction method as set forth in claim 10, wherein the ligament graft is an anterior cruciate ligament graft with a bone piece.

13. (Currently Amended) **[[A]]** The ligament reconstruction method as set forth in claim 10, wherein the ligament reconstruction is reconstruction of an anterior cruciate ligament graft, and the articular bone is a femur.

14. (New) The ligament reconstruction device as set forth in claim 1, wherein said generally elliptical or rectangular cross section is generally perpendicular to a longitudinal extending direction of said through-holes of said tip.

15. (New) A device for ligament reconstruction comprising:

a tip having either one of a generally rectangular or generally elliptical cross-section, wherein said tip has generally parallel first and second tip through-holes formed in juxtaposition inside of said rectangular or elliptical cross-section;

a rear-end having generally parallel first and second rear-end through-

holes formed therein in juxtaposition, and wherein said first and second rear-end through-holes extend coaxial with said first and second tip through-holes, respectively; and

a connector which connects said rear-end and said tip, wherein said connector has a connection hole which connects one of said first and second tip through-holes coaxially with one of said first and second rear-end through-holes, wherein said connector is thinner and longer than both said tip and said rear-end.

16. (New) The ligament reconstruction device as set forth in claim 15, wherein the generally elliptical or rectangular cross section has a major axis/minor axis ratio of about 2 to about 5.

17. (New) The ligament reconstruction device as set forth in claim 15, wherein the elliptical cross section is of a generally oval shape or a racetrack-like elliptical shape.

18. (New) The ligament reconstruction device as set forth in claim 17, wherein the racetrack-like elliptical shape is defined by a pair of parallel straight lines spaced a distance of about 3mm to about 6mm from each other and each having a length of about 4mm to about 8mm and a pair of semicircles connecting opposite ends of the straight lines.

19. (New) The ligament reconstruction device as set forth in claim 15, wherein

the rectangular cross section has a minor edge length of about 3mm to about 6mm and a major edge length of about 7mm to about 14mm.

20. (New) The ligament reconstruction device as set forth in claim 15, wherein the tip has a cross sectional area of about 21mm² to about 84mm².